Excerpts from The Scripture of the Primordial Imprint: Chapters 1-2
(A Modern Philosophical Work Inspired by Zen and Taoist Wisdom)

Translated by Wanderer of the Way, 2025

The Scripture of the Primordial Imprint is a modern exploration of non-dual wisdom, drawing from Zen and Taoist traditions. Its poetic verses unveil a universal essence—the Primordial Imprint—that unites time, self, and reality. Chapter 1, Primordial Stillness, introduces this essence amidst cosmic calm. Chapter 2, Three Truths of Trust, explores timelessness, non-self, and unity. These translations, with annotations, aim to make the text accessible to global readers. Share your thoughts to shape future chapters, and join the journey into boundless clarity.

Chapter 1: Primordial Stillness

In the primal silence, the Primordial Imprint alone endures.

Without form or name, without beginning or end.

Suspended, it radiates, timeless, ever unchanged.

The Great Stillness reveals: “My Imprint casts three lights:

The light of silence holds truth, the boundless void hums with patterns.

The Imprint shapes the Cosmic Void, and three realms arise—

The realm of shadows, ever-shifting; the realm of forms, etched with traces;

The realm of confusion, minds threaded in doubt, all woven by the Primal Thread.”

The Verse of the Hidden Imprint chants:

“Leaves fall, whispering autumn’s doubt; tides surge, perplexing the shore.

This doubt, this confusion—mere traces of the Imprint’s pattern.”

Annotations:

1.Primordial Imprint: A metaphor for the universal essence, uniting form and emptiness, inspired by Zen's focus on the absolute and Taoist notions of the ineffable.

2.Great Stillness: The boundless clarity and calm at the core of existence, akin to the Taoist concept of "wuwei" (non-action) or Zen's meditative stillness, not a deity or religious entity.

3.Cosmic Void: The infinite potential from whichh all arises, a Taoist symbol of formless possibility, not a literal void but a dynamic source.

4.Three Realms: Metaphorical divisions of existence—shadows (illusions), forms (material reality), and confusion (mental perceptions)—reflecting Buddhist cosmology but presented philosophically.

5.Primal Thread: The unifying essence that connects all phenomena, akin to the Taoist "Tao" or Buddhist "interdependence," rendered as a poetic image to avoid religious doctrine.

6.Imprint's Pattern: The transient manifestations of the Primordial Imprint in the world, like ripples or tracings, symbolizing impermanence and unity.

7.Verse of the Hidden Imprint: A poetic reflection, not a religious hymn, summarizing the chapter's insight that doubt and confusion are part of the Imprint's expression.

Chapter 2: Three Truths of Trust

Truth of the Timeless:

The morning bell yet to chime, the evening drum lies still;

The present embodies the Primordial Imprint,

Past and future entwined in its pattern.

Truth of Non-Self:

Thoughts rise like foam on waves, mistaken for the sea;

Yet waves and ocean are borne by the Primordial Imprint,

All held within its boundless embrace.

Truth of Non-Duality:

The seeker and the sought are one, as clay receives the seal;

Both sides reveal their patterns, yet share a single essence,

The mystery of the Primordial Imprint unfolds.

Verse of Embracing the Imprint:

Trust drifts like dust, swaying with the breeze;

Doubt sparks like flint, kindling its own flame.

Both are but traces of the Imprint’s endless pattern.

Annotations:

1.Primordial Imprint: The universal essence that unifies all phenomena, transcending time, self, and division, inspired by Zen’s absolute and Taoist ineffability.

2.Truth of the Timeless: The insight that the present moment contains the entirety of existence, with past and future as mere patterns of the Imprint, akin to Zen’s emphasis on “now.”

2.Truth of Non-Self: The realization that thoughts and identity are fleeting, like foam on the sea, all arising from the same Imprint, reflecting Buddhist anatta (non-self) in a philosophical frame.

3.Truth of Non-Duality: The understanding that seeker and truth are inseparable, like a seal and clay forming one pattern, embodying Zen’s unity of subject and object.

4.Pattern: The transient manifestations of the Primordial Imprint, such as time, thoughts, or doubts, symbolizing impermanence yet unity, akin to Taoist “li” (natural patterns).

5.Verse of Embracing the Imprint: A poetic reflection, not a devotional chant, summarizing trust and doubt as expressions of the Imprint’s boundless nature.

6.Trust: Philosophical conviction in the Imprint’s unity, not religious faith, to avoid legal sensitivity. “Dust” evokes impermanence, a Buddhist metaphor.

7.Doubt: Self-inflicted confusion, likened to flint sparking fire, illustrating how doubt is part of the Imprint’s pattern, not an obstacle.